AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-11 cancelled

12. (Currently Amended) A tungsten carbide powder which ~~comprises~~ consists essentially of powder particles which have a core of cast tungsten carbide and a shell of tungsten monocarbide.

13. (Previously presented) The tungsten carbide powder according to claim 12, wherein the bound carbon content is 4 to 6 wt.%.

14. (Previously presented) The tungsten carbide powder according to claim 12, wherein the bound carbon content is 4.3 to 5.5 wt.%.

15. (Previously presented) The tungsten carbide powder according to claim 12, wherein the particle size determined by Ro-Tap sieve analysis in accordance with ASTM B 214 is up to 3000 µm.

16. (Previously presented) The tungsten carbide powder according to claim 14, wherein the particle size determined by Ro-Tap sieve analysis in accordance with ASTM B 214 is up to 3000 µm.

17. (Previously presented) The tungsten carbide powder according to claim 12, wherein the thickness of the shell of tungsten monocarbide is 0.05 to 0.4 times the average particle size.

18. (Previously presented) The tungsten carbide powder according to claim 12, wherein it has a hardness of > 2000 HVO.1.

19. (Previously presented) The tungsten carbide powder according to claim 16, wherein it has a hardness of > 2000 HVO.1 and the thickness of the shell of tungsten monocarbide is 0.05 to 0.4 times the average particle size.

20. (Previously presented) The tungsten carbide powder according to claim 12, wherein the powder particles have a sharp-edged crushed morphology.

21. (Previously presented) The tungsten carbide powder according to claim 19, wherein the powder particles have a sharp-edged crushed morphology.

22. (Currently Amended) A process for the production of ~~a tungsten~~ the tungsten carbide powder as claimed in claim 12 which comprises powder particles which have a core of cast tungsten carbide and a shell of tungsten monocarbide which comprises heating a cast tungsten carbide powder in the presence of a carbon source to a temperature of 1300 to 2000°C.

23. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 22, wherein cast tungsten carbide powder is heated in the presence of a carbon source to a temperature of 1400 to 1700°C.

24. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 22, wherein the carbon source is carbon black, graphite and/or a hydrocarbon.

25. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 22, wherein the carbon source is added in a quantity such that the total carbon content in the reaction mixture is 4 to 6 wt.%.

26. (Previously presented) A process to surface coat a component subject to wear which comprises coating the surface of the component with the tungsten carbide powder according to claim 12.

27. (Previously presented) A drill bit which comprises the tungsten carbide powder according to claim 12.